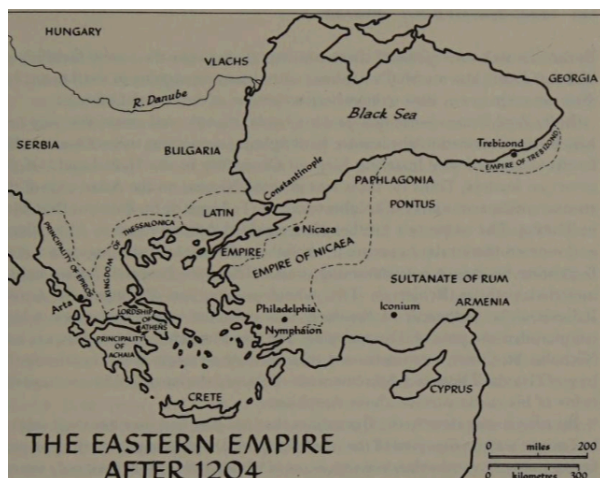


In this paper we will go through the end of the Byzantine Empire at the hands of the Ottomans and how it relates to the 4th crusade. The 4th crusade let the Ottomans take Constantinople, ended the Byzantine Empire, by; lessening the population of Constantinople during the actual Crusade, stealing vast amounts of wealth, and, causing in-fighting.

The 4th crusade was initiated by Pope Innocent III,² to take Egypt; this was due to the Crusaders being from Venice who were being prosecuted in Byzantium; because the Venetians helped the Normans invade them. They even sent boats to attack the country. When the Crusade was announced mostly French and Venetians showed up; Venetians because Venice was the point of assembly, and for the Frenchmen because St. Francis (yes THAT St. Francis) preached in favor for the 4th crusade in France. None went to Egypt, most went to Palestine but some went to Byzantium, because as we already said, the Venetians didn't like them, Prince Alexius took up leadership; he wanted to be the emperor of Byzantium, and the Venetians were going to help him do it. They made it to Constantinople in 1203; besieged it; and failed. Tried again and were and were able put ladders on the wall and into the city and capture it.³

PUT PARTISHIAN OF BYZANTIUM HERE I WILL BE VERY ANGRY AT YOU FUCHER DANIEL



The Ottomans' invasion:

The Ottomans weren't the most powerful nation, but they had ambition.⁴ Byzantium (now reunified under the Empire of Nicæa)³ was going to be theirs. They started taking cities on the border and Byzantine really couldn't do much to stop them. They hadn't any allies to help (others were fighting the Ottomans but didn't aid Byzantine just to hinder the Ottomans); even Mother Nature was against them having an Earthquake lose them a city. By the 2nd half of the 14th century they were near the capital. The Byzantines made a deal with Pope Innocent the VI; he would help them once they unified the churches. They failed to unify the churches. The Ottomans were able to take everything from Byzantium, except for Constantinople. They tried again to unify the churches to get Papal help. They failed again. After this they lost Constantinople in 1453.⁴

Going back to the Crusade, during it, they stole EVERYTHING! From what the Crusaders describe as the most wealthy city that is. Over the course of three days they took all that they could find. Depleting Byzantium of wealth. Wealth that they needed being that they were already short on money. Even the churches were plundered of every thing of value, all gems and precious metals.² After this was all said and done the place was absolutely desolate, with most buildings raised to the ground; even after one would give it 57 years to recover.⁵ They, also during the

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¹Me

² Finlay, George. *The History of the Greeks From Its Conquest by the Crusaders to Its Conquest by the Turks and of the Empire of Trebizond 1204-1461*. Edinburgh: William Blackwood and sons, 1851.

³ Godrey, John. 1204, *the Unholy Crusade*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980.

⁴ Akil, Zeynep, “An Overview of Byzantine Response to Ottoman Advance” *Esogü Tarih Dergisi*
<https://derpark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/2799740>

⁵ MARIA DOUTOU-ELIOPOULOU, “THE CATALAN DUCHY OF ATHENS AND THE OTHER LATIN POWERS IN GREECE ESPECIALLY THE PRINCIPALITY OF ACHAEA (1311-1388” *Eoa Kai Esperia*. 4, 2000: 87-93. EKT

⁶ Talbot, Mary, “The Restoration of Constantinople Under Michael VIII” *Dumbarton Oaks, Trustees for Harvard University*. 47, 1993: 243-261. Jstor.